

## C L A I M S

1. ~~A method for connecting the end of a flattened tube of plastic foil to the beginning of a subsequent tube, said tubes being used in particular for applying sleeves onto~~  
5 ~~bottles or the like, comprising the following steps:~~  
    (a) ~~the leading edge of the beginning of the flattened tube is provided with an obliquely cut-away corner at both longitudinal edges;~~  
    (b) ~~the thus established two loose lips are separated from each other; the end of the spent tube is slid between the lips and fixed in relation to said lips.~~  
2. ~~Method according to claim 1, wherein the end edge of the spent tube is at a distance from those locations of the longitudinal edges of the subsequent tube where the oblique-~~  
15 ~~ly cut-away corners of that tube end, thus leaving a space between the longitudinal edges of both flattened tubes.~~  
3. ~~Method according to claim 1, wherein adhesive tape is used for fixing the ends of the tubes.~~  
4. ~~Method according to claim 1, wherein for fixing the ends~~  
20 ~~of the tubes in relation to each other, the materials of said tubes are melted together by means of a short time, pressurized supply of heat.~~  
5. ~~Device for applying the method according to claim 1, comprising:~~  
25 (a) ~~a frame in which some reels of flattened tube can be accommodated;~~  
    (b) ~~means for supporting the beginnings of subsequent flattened tubes, said beginning being provided with obliquely cut-away corners near its longitudinal edges for forming loose lips,~~  
30 (c) ~~a guide, extending in parallel to said means for supporting:~~  
    (1) ~~the beginnings of the subsequent tubes.~~

(ii) for supporting a transport module comprising a beak situated within said tube, which is kept in place by rollers mounted outside of said tube, and

(iii) a tube transport motor drawing the tube across the beak;

(d) means for bringing said transport module to a location where the beginning of a subsequent tube is situated for bringing the end of a tube between the lips of said subsequent tube.

6. Device according to claim 5, wherein means as in the shape of clamping members are present for clamping the beginning of a subsequent tube, at a distance from said lips, for the time during which said tube is not used.

7. Device according to claim 5, wherein after commencing use of a subsequent tube, the transport motor will temporarily move it at a higher speed in order to create a buffer supply, which is used during connecting the end of one tube to the beginning of a subsequent tube.

8. Device according to claim 5, wherein for connecting the tubes to each other, the device is provided with sealing beams, which are carried by the transport module and are situated above and below said tube and can be brought together and be heated for melting the abutting parts of the tubes together where a part of the beak is situated.

9. Device according to claim 5, wherein the device is provided with a belt being supported by the frame, for supporting the lips of a subsequent tube.

10. Device according to claim 9, wherein the transport module is provided with belt guides being connected to the belt led across some rollers and being located at both sides of the beak and extending up to near its side edges.

11. Device according to claim 5, wherein when using a printed foil, the transport module is provided with a detecting photo cell which, on detection of a certain point of the print, will stop the tube transport motor, a cutting knife being present for cutting the tube in a certain position.

005541-0131  
F08760-72455660

12. Device according to claim 11, wherein a cutting knife is present at each clamping member for clamping the beginning of a subsequent tube and that operation of the clamping member and the cutting knife takes place by means of a  
5 pressurized medium cylinder being located on the transport module.

-----

add a 2

095541.091801